

Advocates Call for Better Reporting on J.K. Reforms

(Nov. 24, 2003)—Months after Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano announced the statewide expansion of the innovative approach to providing mental health services to children that adopted as part of the historic JK settlement, advocates are calling on the state to improve “self-reporting” to better measure the progress that has been made to reform the state’s children’s mental health system.

In a Sept. 17, 2003 letter to the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Disability Law Center called on the state to better track several key indicators, including:

Indicators of Good Practice

- Children with plans developed according to the Arizona model
- Number of children reviewed in a case review process, and percentage of such children judged as being served according to the principles

Indicators of System Infrastructure

- Staffing profile, including the number of full time case managers, direct care workers, family support partners, clinicians and internal coaches and average caseloads
- Service profile, including the amount of money spent on administration vs. services (a figure for each side by side, or a ratio), out-patient services vs. out-of-home services (a figure for each side by side, or a ration), therapy vs. other outpatient services (a figure for each side by side, or a ratio), therapeutic foster care vs. direct care workers and home and neighborhood-based respite.
- Out of home care, by intensity level, including the average number of children for a specific period of time in hospitals, RTC's, ADHS-licensed group homes (Levels I-III) and therapeutic foster homes.

Outcome Wellness Indicators

- Percentage of children living at home (or, alternatively, percentage living at home or with relatives). "At home" would include adoptive homes.
- Percentage of children with stable placements
- Percentage of children regularly attending school or working.
- Percentage of children without encounters with law enforcement